

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA San Diego, California

***United States Attorney
Carol C. Lam***

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - July 22, 2004

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam today announced the unsealing of an indictment charging four individuals with distributing highly dangerous "designer" drug analogues. The defendants dispensed these designer drug analogues to customers through an internet web site known as "Omega Fine Chemicals." The indictment alleges that defendants were shipping controlled substance analogues throughout the nation, including the Southern District of California.

This indictment arose out of "Operation Web Tryp," a nationwide initiative led by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). The twenty-month investigation targeted drug pushers selling drug analogues disguised as "research chemicals." The drug analogues are tryptamines that produce hallucinatory effects similar to those produced by LSD.

Search and seizure warrants were executed yesterday in Santa Maria and Santa Barbara, California and in Las Vegas, Nevada, locations where defendants directed their internet-trafficking activities. The four indicted defendants were taken into custody and the Omega Fine Chemicals domain name was seized. Law

enforcement officials estimate that the indicted traffickers were responsible for the distribution of a significant amount of controlled substance analogues to adolescents and young adults, who are the primary abusers of these chemicals. The indictment alleges that the defendants were obtaining these chemicals from foreign sources located in China, India, and Canada.

United States Attorney Lam praised the cooperation between federal, state and local authorities that made it possible to dismantle this significant internet-trafficking group. Agents from the Internal Revenue Service, United States Postal Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Homeland Security - Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Narcotic Information Network, United States Forest Service, and the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department assisted the DEA in this OCDETF investigation. The OCDETF program was created to consolidate and utilize all law enforcement resources in this country's battle against major drug trafficking.

DEFENDANTS

1. **Joseph S. Kasper**
Date of Birth: November 10, 1959
Residence Address: Santa Maria, CA
2. **Thomas C. Kasper**
Date of Birth: November 4, 1961
Residence Address: Santa Barbara, CA
3. **Beth E. Badrak**
Date of Birth: March 22, 1968
Residence Address: Santa Barbara, CA
4. **Elaine A. Villalobos**
Date of Birth: August 21, 1977
Residence Address: Santa Maria, CA.

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

- Count 1: Conspiracy to distribute controlled substance analogues, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846, 841(a)(1) & (b)(1)(C), 802(32)(A) & 813
- Counts 2-7: Distribution of controlled substance analogues, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) & (b)(1)(C), 802(32)(A) & 813, and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2 -Aiding and abetting
- Counts 8-9: Distribution of controlled substance analogues to a person under the age of 21,

in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 859 & 841(a)(1),
802(32)(A) & 813 and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2 -Aiding and abetting

Count 10: Conspiracy to Launder Money in violation of Title 21,
United States Code, Sections 1956(h) and 1956(a)(1)(A)(i); and Criminal forfeiture.

The maximum penalty on each count is twenty years, with a maximum fine of \$250,000, and three years of supervised release.

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Drug Enforcement Administration
Internal Revenue Service
United States Postal Service
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Food and Drug Administration
Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Narcotic Information Network
United States Forest Service
Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department

An indictment itself is not evidence that the defendants committed the crimes charged. The defendants are presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.